

## Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /036 W  
-----280838 069833 /17

R 280720Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9638  
INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, TH  
SUBJ: WCRP VESSEL ACTIVITIES

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 778 (B) BANGKOK 3454 (C) KUALA LUMPUR 1236

1. FOLLOWING UP CONVERSATIONS REPORTED IN EMBASSY SINGAPORE'S  
VERY INFORMATIVE CABLE (REF A), EMBOFF SPOKE WITH UNHCR OFFICER  
MORRIS FEB 28 CONCERNING STATEMENT THAT MAJORITY OF REFUGEES  
ABOARD LEAP DAL ORIGINATED IN THAI REFUGEE CAMPS. MORRIS  
READ MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE SINGAPORE THAT  
ALL ABOARD CAME FROM THAILAND, CONSISTING OF 208 LAO, 33  
CAMBODIANS, AND ONLY 13 VIETNAMESE.

2. WHEN EMBASSY REPORTED THAT WE KNEW OF NO WCRP REFUGEES  
WHO CAME FROM THAILAND (REF B), WE WERE THINKING PRIMARILY IN  
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TERMS OF VIETNAMESE WHO MAY HAVE BEEN IN BOAT CAMPS. ACCORDING  
TO UNHCR MESSAGE, NONE OF THOSE ON BOARD LEAP DAL ARE FROM  
THAI BOAT CAMPS. ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE LAO CLAIM THAT THEY  
ARE FROM REFUGEE CAMPS IN NONG KHAI AND UBON, UNHCR SPECULATES  
THAT MAJORITY OF "REFUGEES" ARE MONEYED PEOPLE WHO HAVE  
PROBABLY BEEN LIVING SECRETLY OUTSIDE OF CAMPS AND PAID  
\$500-750 APIECE TO BUY THEIR WAY ON BOARD THE VESSEL. THIS

BECOMES PLAUSIBLE IN VIEW OF FACT THAT LOCAL WCRP REPRESENTATIVE, QUACH DUC, IN AN ENTERPRISE SINO-VIETNAMESE FROM LAO ABOUT WHOM THERE HAVE LONG BEEN RUMORS OF SHADY FINANCIAL DEALINGS WITH OR OVER REFUGEES.

3. ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF REFUGEES IS GOING TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR MALAYSIA TO ACCEPT THEM, IT SEEMS TO US. WHETHER THAI WILL TAKE THEM BACK, PARTICULARLY IF THEY HAD BEEN LIVING HERE ILLEGALLY (I.E., OUTSIDE OF CAMPS), IS ALSO DOUBTFUL. FINALLY, ABILITY OF CREW OF LEAP DAL TO CONTROL REFUGEES IF SHIP BEGAN TO SAIL NORTHWARD TO THAILAND WOULD CERTAINLY APPEAR TO BE QUESTIONABLE.

4. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT UNHCR IS ADVISING HOMER JACK TO DISCUSS PROBLEM DIRECTLY WITH THAI AUTHORITIES. UNHCR BANGKOK IS RELUCTANT TO BECOME INVOLVED UNTIL JACK MAKES SUCH CONTACT WITH RTG AND UNTIL IT IS ASSURED THAT REFUGEES ARE LEGITIMATE, WHICH CAN ONLY BE DONE BY COMPARING NAMES OF THOSE ON SHIP WITH THOSE REGISTERED AT CAMPS. WE HAVE AGREED WITH UNHCR TO REMAIN IN TOUCH TO DETERMINE IF AND WHEN WE WILL NEED TO INTERCEDE WITH RTG, WHICH WILL BE A TOUCHY MATTER. WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, SEA RESCUES, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BANGKO04438  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ORM  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 SINGAPORE 778, 77 BANGKOK 3454, 77 KUALA LUMPUR 1236  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3317145  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WCRP VESSEL ACTIVITIES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SREF, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009